



THE GREEN SCENE

Rare Sighting of a Golden Eagle Over Whittier Narrows Nature Center

A Golden Eagle was spotted at Whittier Narrows Nature Center on November 24, 2011 and on January 14, 2012. This beautiful bird is known to nest in high places including cliffs, trees or telephone poles. The eagle was seen on the Edison Tower between the Whittier Narrows Nature Center and Wells Road. It normally seeks higher elevations and inhabits mountainous or hilly terrain, hunting over open country for small mammals, snakes, birds or carrion. The bird is usually 30 to 40 inches in length and its wingspan is 6 to 7.5 feet. The one seen in Whittier Narrows Recreation Area is speculated to be female due to its size, since females are larger for reproductive purposes. What a unique and rare sight to see a Golden Eagle in one of our County of Los Angeles parks! Special thanks go to Regional Park Superintendent Colleen Mackay for sharing this wonderful news!



Above photo: Flying Golden Eagle taken at
Whittier Narrows Nature Center
by Robert Hamilton



Above photo: Golden Eagle

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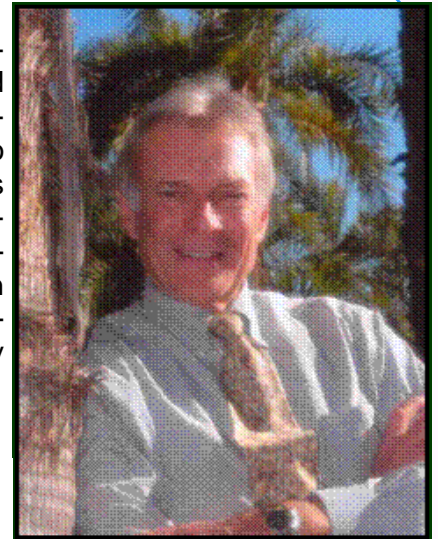
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Greetings from the Director

Happy New Year! The Holiday season was a wonderful time to appreciate our loved ones. This was reflected in sharing good times, great food and thoughtful gifts. It was also an opportunity for our Department to provide our park patrons with festive and fun activities and programs and to also give back to those in need. Our commitment to distribute free meals during the Holiday season has been impressive this year with approximately 5,277 meals served to grateful park visitors. This was made possible by co-sponsorships with private organizations. We also offered fun activities and events like the Winter Boat Parade at Castaic Lake, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at East Rancho Dominguez Park, a Toy Giveaway at Jesse Owens Park and more.

I hope this year brings all of us good health, prosperity and continued service to the public who rely on Parks and Recreation to better their quality of life. Thank you for all you do!

**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**



Russ Guiney, Director

Mona Park Unveils Los Angeles Dodgers Dreamfield!

Hundreds of baseball fans young and old gathered on Monday, November 14, 2011, for the unveiling of Los Angeles County's first Dodgers Dreamfield at Mona Park in Compton, California. The field is the 16th Dreamfield to be dedicated in Los Angeles, made possible by a partnership with the Dodgers Dream Foundation, the LA84 Foundation and the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. Howard Sunkin, Senior Vice President of the Los Angeles Dodgers was Master of Ceremonies with guests Anita L. DeFrantz, LA 84 President; Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Russ Guiney, Director of Parks and Recreation. Dodgers alumni Kenny Landreaux, "Sweet" Lou Johnson, Dennis Powell and Derrel Thomas led the youth baseball clinic for the event.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas presented the new field to a crowd of children from Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. Dodgers' star player, Matt Kemp and owner Frank McCourt spoke to the children, encouraging them to follow their dreams and to take advantage of their new field. The new ball field improvements include a new scoreboard, ball field brick dust, out-field sod and a newly installed irrigation system. Thanks to the South Agency staff who prepared the field for the event and maintain the beautiful field for regular use.



California State Association of Counties (CSAC) “Merit Award” Winners!



The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation was honored on November 15, 2011 with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) “Merit Award” for the Parks After Dark Program. Los Angeles County Mayor Michael D. Antonovich presented Director Russ Guiney with the award along with the support of staff members from the Chief Executive Office, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the County of Los Angeles Public Library and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Pictured Above Front Row, L- R: Debbie Anderson, County Public Library; Lorraine Martinez, Recreation Services Supervisor, Parks and Recreation; Russ Guiney, Director, Parks and Recreation; Melinda Mayoral, Assistant Regional Director, Parks and Recreation; Mary Anderson, County Public Library. **Back Row, L- R:** Vincent Holmes, Chief Executive Office; Earmer Carden, Parks and Recreation; Don Johnson, Parks and Recreation; Steve Smith, Captain, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department; Maria Gutierrez, Lieutenant, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Parks Get in the Spirit With Holiday Giveaways!

Giving back to our park visitors and the local community has always been a priority for the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Department, along with private organizations, distributed a total of 4,820 Thanksgiving meals; 7,396 Christmas meals and 17,684 Toys!

Thanksgiving Meals

North Agency.....	635
South Agency.....	3,540
East Agency.....	645

Christmas Meals

North Agency.....	431
South Agency.....	2,275
East Agency.....	4,690

Toy Giveaways

North Agency.....	1,697
South Agency.....	10,225
East Agency.....	5,762

Where in the Department is This?

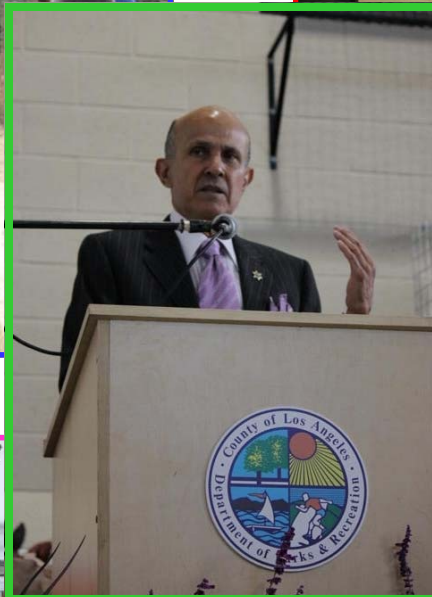


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Employee Symposium 2011 “Working Together To Make a Difference”

The annual employee symposium, “Working Together To Make A Difference,” provided a day of fun activities and educational workshops for Parks and Recreation employees. A continental breakfast, variety of vendor booths and an array of recreational activities offered something for everyone. The opening ceremony included speeches by Director Russ Guiney and guest speaker Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca who spoke about the Sheriff’s partnership with Parks and the positive impact it has had throughout the community. More than four hundred employees participated in a wide variety of fun and health-inspiring activities that were held throughout the day.

Sessions included EPIC X-Training Boot Camp with James Mendoza, trainer and Antonio Reyes, trainer; the Golf Clinic with Mike McMonegal, Tim Smith, Gary Kossick, Warren Leary, Department of Parks and Recreation; Coach Ian McCutcheon, Coach Clay McCutcheon, Coach Jennifer Bermingham and Coach Clark Corbett, Junior Golf Program Instructors; Disc Golf with Suzette Simons, INNOVA Champion Discs; the Tennis Clinic with Chung Ng and Rick Fulgenico, Department of Parks and Recreation; Salsa Cardio with Adrienne Bratton, private dance instructor; Take a Hike Walking Tours with Robert Ettleman and Frank Hoffman, Department of Parks and Recreation. There were also great seminars including: Water Conservation Demo by Rain Bird with Tom Kundrat; Crazy 'N Fun Collaborative Art with Anna Reyner, Discount School Supply; Community Intervention with Aquil Basheer, Maximum Force Enterprises; Keys to Fundraising Success...Taking a Bad Situation and Making It Financially Great! with Pamela Wasserman, Director of Recreation and Community Services for the City of Bell Gardens; and Getting Started: Community Garden Workshop with Silvera Grant, Altadena Community Garden.



Where in the Department?



This intriguing open beam ceiling with decorative spherical string pendant lamps was designed by award winning modernist architects Smith and Williams in 1966. Formerly known as the Full Moon Teahouse, the Japanese Teahouse at Descanso Gardens was presented as a gift to the County of Los Angeles from the Descanso Gardens Guild, Inc on June 3, 1966.

Where in the Department? is a new feature by Ansley B. Davies, Associate Curator. Ansley has been locating and documenting all of the Department's historic resources. We hope this new feature will be a fun way for you to learn some interesting things about the department. Thank you to Ansley for making this column available and all of her hard work inventorying our historic assets.

GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our Department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to iperius@parks.lacounty.gov and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of The Green Scene.



Castaic Lake Superintendent Lori Bennett captured a photo of a beautiful Osprey on the Castaic Lake Campgrounds. Ospreys are fish-eating winter visitors to Southern California. Thanks Lori!

HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

Thanks Joe Mendoza! Your staff was great and made my life easier. And the kids from Martin Luther King School had an amazing time it appeared! I think they liked their t-shirts the best! We look forward to partnering with LA County on more Dreamfields down the road for sure! Go Dodgers!

David Sean Brennan
Fundraising Manager
Dodgers Dream Foundation

My name is Gabriela Hernandez-Gonzalez, parent of Natalia and Noel "Binky" Gonzalez. Both Natalia and Noel participated in the Coop's Life Skills Program at City Terrace Park this summer, and I would like to help you understand why our family and many of my fellow neighbors are grateful for the opportunity to have our children involved in the Coop's Life Skills Program.

Coop's Life Skills provided one of the best opportunities a parent can hope for their child. It provided a structured program that not only focused on athletics, but focused on exercising the most important muscle in the body...the brain. Coop's Life Skills provided health and social-emotional education where children learn to work in teams, and are given the opportunity to meet with college and financial aid advisors and other community mentors. The program was staffed by competent, energetic, "coaches" and educators and was created by the staff of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Coop's Life Skills agency staff, the Honorable Supervisor Gloria Molina and the staff from the First Supervisory District, and especially the collective team work of the City Terrace Park site staff (Alice Gonzalez and her staff) and Coop's Life Skills Site Manager (Marquis Diamond and his coaches); all of whom were visible and accessible to parents. The excellent quality of this program is obvious and its objectives were met. My children benefitted from this program in many ways that I could not completely express in this letter. For this I am thankful. The most important part of this program was that my children begged me to bring them every day and were sad to leave by the end of the day. My children loved the program and were very happy to be part of it. It is my wish that this program will continue to serve the children and families in East Los Angeles, especially at City Terrace Park.

Gabriela Hernandez-Gonzalez
City Terrace

The letter is to acknowledge the stellar county staff, particularly Regional Park Superintendent II, Mr. Norman Phillips. As a non-profit organization, Bow-Wows & Meows, Inc. is made up entirely of volunteers. The county park joins us each year as co-sponsors and my team and I couldn't be more grateful for the support we receive from Mr. Phillips and his staff.

From the formal requirements down to the smallest of details, Mr. Phillips is committed to making sure our annual pet fair is not only safe for our community but a fun experience as well. It always feels like he goes above and beyond and when he says he is taking care of something, we all rest assured he has it covered.

Organizing a free community pet fair, in which over 50 vendors set up, all six LA County Animal Shelters participate and over 7,000 community members attend, one can image the amount of work that goes into this for our small group of volunteer board of directors yet Mr. Phillips works tirelessly as though he was one of us! He is always available, approachable and beyond pleasant to work with.

We look forward to our 12th Annual Pet Fair at William S. Hart Park and working with the county team and Mr. Phillips for the success of this community event.

Yvonne Allbee
Founder/President
Bow-Wows & Meows, Inc.



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